

REMARKS

Objections to the Specification

The Abstract is amended and is now believed to be 148 words in length. Removal of the objection to the Abstract is kindly requested.

The blank space at page 9, line 6 has been replaced by the word "abandoned" to indicate the status of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/994,148.

Objections to the Claims

The objections to the claims for improper dependencies and double listing are overcome by canceling claims 1-74 and providing an ordered set of new claims 75-142. A Claims Guide is enclosed herewith to assist the Examiner in tracking the claims. Removal of the objections is respectfully sought.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 17, 44, and 74 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Otsuka et al. These claims (now canceled) correspond to new claims 96, 121, and 142, respectively, except that the new claims include additional limitations to patentably distinguish over the cited references. Specifically, these claims define sidewall members and "guide means located at the ends of said roller and in contact with said pair of opposing wall surfaces of said sidewall members for maintaining said roller axis in perpendicular relationship to said isolation axis" or like limitation.

Newly presented claims 76-78 also include limitations relating to the guide means. Claim 76 now serves as the parent independent claim for claims 79-95 as well.

In practice, the sidewall members and guide means as claimed provide excellent lateral strength to not only retain the roller, but also maintain alignment of the roller in the presence of large lateral loads during an earthquake.

Favorable action on claims 76, 96, 121, and 142, and claims depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-67 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Albin et al. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 63-67. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 68-69 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albin et al. in view of Otsuka et al. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 68-69. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 72-73 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albin et al. in view of Helary et al. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 72-73. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The objection to claims 45-48 is noted. These claims correspond to new claims 122-125, respectively, and depend from new claim 121 discussed above. Since claim 121 is respectfully considered to be allowable, claims 122-125 are also thought to be allowable. Allowance of claims 121-125 is respectfully requested.

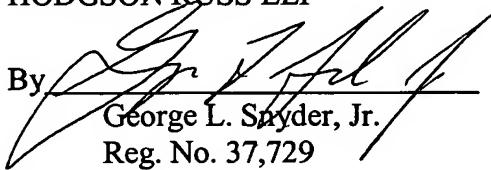
The objection to claims 70 and 71 is noted. Claim 70 corresponds to new claim 140, which is written in independent form to include all the limitations of claim 63 (canceled). Claim 71 corresponds to new claim 141. Accordingly, the objection is overcome and allowance of claims 140-141 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The present application is thought to be in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or the attorneys for applicant can assist in any way, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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GLS/

Encs: Petition for One-Month Extension of Time (in duplicate)
Fee Transmittal; Check for \$60 (extension of time); Check for \$100 (extra indep. claim)
Claims Guide (4 pages)

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